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Chairman: Mr. Balarezo ..... (Peru)

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The meeting was called to order at 12.30 p.m.

Agenda item 87: Globalization and interdependence (A/59/138, A/59/115, A/59/155-E/2004/96 and A/59/158)

(d) Culture and development (A/59/202)

1. **Mr. D'Orville** (Director, Bureau of Strategic Planning, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)), introducing the report of the Director-General of UNESCO on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 57/249, entitled "Culture and development", contained in document A/59/202, said that the links between culture and development and the protection of cultural diversity, as well as the Organization's action for the rehabilitation of the heritage in pre- and post-conflict situations, had been identified by UNESCO as the key priorities of its Culture programme for 2004-2005, and would be further reinforced in the next biennium. UNESCO had undertaken important work in recognizing the contribution of tangible and intangible cultural heritage, as well as that of creativity, cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue, to the process of development. UNESCO was committed to upholding the indivisibility of culture and development.

2. The increasing importance of the cultural sector had redefined the strategic significance of creative products, identifying creativity as a crucial factor for successful integration into the global market. Creativity and knowledge had proved to be key elements in the processes of economic growth and vital ingredients for the development of many countries and industries. Globalization had highlighted the inexorable linkage between culture and development. The cultural and creative sectors were one of the most important challenges faced by societies and governments in the era of globalization. Globalization had focused particular attention on the preservation and promotion of cultural diversity, which was both an end and a means in the development process and in international exchanges.

3. The adoption in November 2001 of the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity had forcefully emphasized the need for Member States firmly to support the very principle of diversity, the promotion of which was a priority for UNESCO. Diversity, if it was to remain creative, had to be based on acceptance and dialogue, and could not survive when communities withdrew into themselves or opted for confrontation. UNESCO was, therefore, sparing no effort to create the conditions in which dialogue and diversity could flourish. The UNESCO General Conference had requested the Director-General to submit, in 2005, a preliminary report accompanied by a draft international convention on the protection of the diversity of cultural contents and artistic expressions. An initial preliminary draft had been drawn up by a group of independent experts between December 2003 and June 2004. Preparation of the draft convention had been advanced at a meeting of governmental experts in September 2004, and suggestions and observations regarding it and the present report were to be sent to the Director-General of UNESCO by the middle of November 2004. A drafting group had been established and would meet in December 2004 to revise the draft on the basis of comments received.

4. UNESCO was assisting Member States in the evaluation of their cultural policies and the development of partnerships to bring together cultural and development policies. Cultural policies would be playing an increasingly important role in opening up spaces for productive development and engagement, interactivity and dialogue. UNESCO was supporting Member States in drawing up national inventories of the intangible cultural heritage and in launching national campaigns for its safeguarding. UNESCO was also focusing on creating an enabling environment for the cultural industry sector, which included national and regional institutional cooperation, public-private partnerships and capacity-building. The protection of copyright and related rights was as important for creativity as for the development of cultural industries. UNESCO had pioneered the Global Alliance for Cultural Diversity.

5. Finally, noting that HIV/AIDS required culturally appropriate information and communication, prevention education and treatment education, he drew attention to the recent adoption of the Global Initiative to Expand Prevention Education against HIV/AIDS, which would be the new culturally sensitive and culturally adjusted tool in the fight against that scourge.

6. **The Chairman** asked what UNESCO had been able to do to regulate the issue of intellectual property in the era of the Internet.

7. **Mr. D'Orville** (UNESCO) said that the intellectual property regime in terms of national and international rules was defined and determined by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). UNESCO was committed to upholding the rights of crafts industries in developing countries through capacity-building and a national legislation effort which was undertaken in cooperation with WIPO. UNESCO's focus was on knowledge and knowledge-sharing in a multilingual manner through the Internet; it sought to empower societies to make the best use of knowledge that was freely available in the public domain.

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.